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COUNCIL

20566

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

Han Hsu, Deputy Chief, of the People's Republic
of China Liaison Office, Washington
Hsieh Ch'i-mei, Counselor
Shen Jo-yun, Interpreter
Yang Yu-yung, Interpreter

Philip C. Habib, Assistant Secretary of State
for East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Winston Lord, Director, Policy Planning Staff,
Department of State
William H. Gleysteen, Deputy Assistant Secretary
of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Oscar V. Armstrong, Director, People's Republic
of China and Mongolian Affairs, Department
of State
Richard H. Solomon, Senior Staff Member,
National Security Council

DATE, TIME, AND PLACE:

March 25, 1975; 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Department of State (Mr. Habib's Office)

SUBJECT:

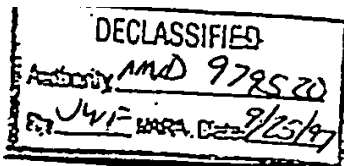
Further Demarche on the "Taiwan Liberation"
Song Issue

Mr. Habib (reading from a prepared statement): In view of Ambassador Han's request on March 23, we have once again carefully reviewed our earlier position regarding the song, "People of Taiwan, Our Own Brothers" contained in the supplementary program supplied by the Chinese side to the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. The synopsis of the song includes the statement, "We are determined to liberate Taiwan, and let the light of the sun shine on the island."

We would like to make sure you understand our position. In your statement on March 23, you referred to the song entitled, "People of Taiwan, Our Brothers." We would have no objection to the inclusion of a song which merely expressed feelings of brotherhood for the people of Taiwan.

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We cannot, however, agree to the inclusion in the program and repertoire of a song with such high political content as a reference to the liberation of Taiwan.

We have been instructed to re-emphasize that there is no change in our adherence to the policies outlined (read as "contained" in the second reading, as noted below) in the Shanghai Communique.

Our only concern with the Chinese side's program proposal is that introducing political content into a cultural context would create controversy harmful to the interests of both of our countries.

We urge that the Chinese side view our decision in this light and refrain from drawing any other conclusion.

If the Chinese side has any further thoughts, please call on us before noon tomorrow. Otherwise, we will inform the National Committee tomorrow afternoon, March 26, that the tour of the performing arts troupe will have to be postponed indefinitely. When the matter becomes public, we will be making a statement along the lines we read to you in our last meeting.

Ambassador Han: And if you don't mind we would like to check what you said.

(Mr. Habib re-reads his entire statement.)

Ambassador Han: I'll report your reply to our government. As for our position on the Taiwan question, it was made clear last time and I will not repeat it.

Mr. Habib: That is not at question. Neither is our position as expressed in the Shanghai Communique.

Ambassador Han: In order to save time I won't repeat myself, as last time I made our position clear.

Mr. Habib: After you have reported, we'll hear from you.

(At this point the Chinese got up to depart, and were escorted to the elevator by Mr. Habib and his associates.)

Comment: This meeting was decidedly more relaxed than the session on March 23. The Chinese conveyed the impression of great interest in quickly breaking off the meeting and reporting the message conveyed by Mr. Habib back to Peking.

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